



IFW
\$

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ronghua Wei et al.

Filed: March 26, 2004

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A NITRIDE LAYER ON A
BIOMEDICAL DEVICE

Serial No.: 10/811,485

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Atty Docket No.: SWRI:003

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date below:

6-1-04
Date

Deletri Ferrara
Name

Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

REQUEST FOR EARLY PUBLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.219

Dear Sir:

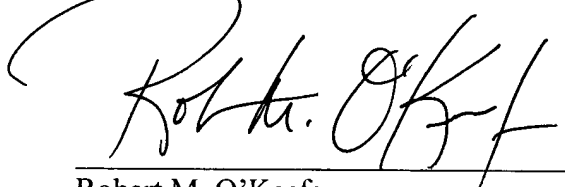
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.219, Applicant hereby requests publication as soon as possible of the present application. The publication fee set forth in §1.18(d) is enclosed herewith. If the fee is missing, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fee from deposit account 10-1205.

06/04/2004 SSESHE1 00000060 10811485

01 FC:1504 300.00 OP

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at 512-347-1611 with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robt. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. O'Keefe
Registration No. 35,630
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, L.L.P.
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
512-347-1611
512-347-1615 (Fax)